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BOARD OF EDUCATION.

REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF EDUCATION

for the Year 1904–1905 on the ADMINISTRATION of SCHOOLS,

under the

WELSH INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION ACT, 1889.

(Presented to both Houses of Parliament pursuant to Section 15 of that Act.)

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WELSH INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION ACT, 1889.

(52 & 53 Vict. c. 40.)

Schools for which grant was claimed.

1. The Treasury Grant, made under Section 9 of the Welsh Intermediate Education Act, 1889, for the financial year ending 31st March 1905, was claimed in aid of the 93 county schools which claimed the grant in the previous year. In addition to these 93 schools, Doctor Williams's School for Girls, at Dolgelly, and the Howell's Glamorgan County School, although not entitled to a grant, were again inspected and examined, as required by the schemes under which they are carried on, making a total of 95 schools inspected and examined.

Forms of Inspection.

2. As explained in the Board's Report under the Act for 1903–4, two forms of Inspection have been adopted—(i) a complete Administrative and Educational Inspection held triennially in each school, and (ii) a Subsidiary Inspection held annually in each school which is not undergoing the complete Inspection.

During the present year 31 schools—namely, the schools in Cardigan, Carnarvon, and Glamorgan—were visited for the purposes of the complete Administrative and Educational Inspection; the remaining 64 schools were visited for the purposes of the Subsidiary Inspection.

Inspection and examination of the schools.

3. The inspection and examination of the schools were conducted, as in former years, under the direction of the Central Welsh Board, the inspection being undertaken as follows, viz., the Chief Inspector visited 31 schools for the purposes of the Triennial Inspection, and 8 schools for the purposes of the Subsidiary Inspection; the Assistant Inspector visited 30 schools for the purposes of the Triennial Inspection, and 53 schools for the purposes of the Subsidiary Inspection; Dr. W. H. Young visited 26 schools for the purposes of the Triennial Inspection and 2 schools for the purposes of the Subsidiary Inspection; Miss C. L. Thomson visited 24 schools for the purposes of the Triennial Inspection and 1 school for the purposes of the Subsidiary Inspection; Miss I. C. W. Thomas visited 5 schools for the purposes of the Triennial Inspection and 1 school for the purposes of the Subsidiary Inspection. The results of the inspection and examination were embodied in a Report by the Central Welsh Board, which was submitted by them to the Board of Education, together with their recommendations respecting the payment of the grant.

Report to the Treasury on the result.

4. Upon consideration of that Report, the Board of Education were able to report to the Treasury that the conditions required to be fulfilled by a school in order to obtain a grant under the Act (Treasury Regulation No. 3) had been fulfilled in the case of each school.

Statistics as to pupils and staff.

5. The 95 schools inspected and examined, of which 92 schools were in their permanent school buildings, comprise 18 schools for boys, 21 schools for girls, 47 dual, and 9 mixed schools.

The total number of pupils inspected has increased from 9,284 (viz., 4,690 boys and 4,594 girls) to 10,413 (viz., 5,116 boys and 5,297 girls). There are now 356 boarders as compared with 343 in the previous year. The collective staff for the schools consists of 74 Head Masters and 21 Head Mistresses, 247 Assistant Masters, and 243 Assistant Mistresses. The permanent staff is therefore 585 teachers to 10,413 pupils, or a proportion of slightly under 1 to 18. The emoluments of the 74 Head Masters amount approximately to £24,191, and of the 21 Head Mistresses to about £5,850, showing an average of £327 for each Head Master and £278 11*s.* 4*d.* for each Head Mistress. In the county of Carmarthenshire addition is made in some cases to these emoluments on account of work in connection with Pupil Teacher Centres. The average salary for each Assistant Master is about £133 6*s.* 6*d.*, and for each Assistant Mistress £110 9*s.* 11*d.*

In addition to their other emoluments 11 Head Masters and 5 Head Mistresses are provided with residences free from rent and taxes. In 6 other cases the Head Master, and in 1 other the Head Mistress, is provided with a residence free either from rent or from taxes.

Further details as to the emoluments of the staff of the Schools will be found in the appended Table A. The number of boys and girls respectively in the various counties who have availed themselves of the advantages afforded by the Act during the last three years will be seen from the appended Table B.

Scholarships and bursaries.

6. From School District Funds, scholarships of the aggregate value of £9,260 14*s.* 0*d.* were awarded to 1,855 pupils (viz., 937 boys and 918 girls), of whom 455 pupils (viz., 230 boys and 225 girls) received augmentations amounting to £1,246 0*s.* 11*d.*, while bursaries of the aggregate value of £3,947 17*s.* 0*d.* were granted to 1,408 pupils (viz., 708 boys and 700 girls). From Scholarship District Funds, scholarships amounting in the aggregate to £3,528 13*s.* 10*d.* were awarded to 398 pupils (viz., 202 boys and 196 girls) of whom 52 pupils (viz., 22 boys and 30 girls) received augmentations amounting to £432; 162 pupils (viz., 100 boys and 62 girls) held scholarships from private donations of the value of £707 18*s.* 9*d.*, while from charitable donations outside the District Funds and from special funds, 2 pupils (girls) received bursaries of the aggregate value of £8, and 275 pupils (viz., 116 boys and 159 girls) received scholarships of the aggregate value of £1,462 14*s.* 4*d.*, of whom 35 pupils (viz., 28 boys and 7 girls) received augmentations of the aggregate value of £137 12*s.* 3*d.*

It will thus be seen that pupils in the intermediate schools received in scholarships, bursaries, and augmentations the total sum of £20,731 11*s.* 1*d.*

7. The reports of the Examiners and Inspectors are again satisfactory; a continuous improvement is noted in most subjects, though the Examiners often find occasion for criticism, which should be helpful to the teachers, and, in combination with the system now adopted of employing the Examiners when possible to assist at the inspections, should greatly improve methods of instruction in the various subjects. General remarks.

The teaching of science is now established on good lines in nearly all the schools; the Examiner in Chemistry again reports improvements in the results of the examination in that subject, and looks forward hopefully to future progress. The instruction in other branches of science is reported to be good.

Previous adverse comments on the teaching of Geography have drawn attention to this subject, and though it cannot yet be said to be treated satisfactorily in all schools, the Examiner reports that "in some schools in the Principality there was "unmistakable evidence that the subject is being taught on "sound lines by teachers well-equipped by training, knowledge, "and sympathy to teach it," but that in other schools it evidently receives scant attention.

He thinks, and the Chief Inspector agrees with him, that the recognition of the subject in the Matriculation Syllabus of the University of Wales would do much to stimulate and direct the teaching of the subject in the Intermediate Schools.

There is a great improvement in the number of schools which have presented pupils for examination in Drawing, 46 as against 41 in the previous year, with 700 papers worked as compared with 532. But the number should be still larger, and it is hoped that the revised schedules will encourage a greater number of schools to devote more time to this important subject.

In manual work there is no improvement either in the number of schools in which instruction is given or in the number of pupils receiving it. This is probably due to want of accommodation for such instruction in many schools. Its provision should be considered in connection with plans for the enlargement of schools, which has become necessary owing to the large increase in the number of pupils.

Oral work has been successfully constituted part of the course of instruction in languages in most of the schools. The increase in the number of pupils presented for examination in conversation is very striking. The numbers were 983 in 1903, 1,158 in 1904, and 1,530 in 1905.

In Greek the number of schools presenting pupils is nearly the same as in the previous year, being 14 schools in 1905 as against 13 schools in 1904; the number of papers worked were 107 in 1905 and 117 in 1904.

The Chief Inspector reports that "during the past year " 2,180 pupils in 53 schools received instruction in the Welsh " language, an increase of 352 in the number of pupils and of " 8 in the number of schools. In three or four years, at the " present rate of progress, the Welsh language will attain to a " satisfactory position in the county schools."

The number of assistant teachers in the schools is still inadequate, and the increase in the staff does not keep pace with the increase in the number of the pupils.

The Chief Inspector points out that "a satisfactory course " of instruction, extending over a period of four years, cannot " be organised without a permanent staff of at least four " teachers. In seven of the smaller schools the appointment " of an additional teacher is, therefore, an urgent matter if " they are to secure continued recognition as secondary schools." There is also a need for an increase of staff in many of the larger schools.

The qualifications of the staff, as shown by the number of University degrees and of diplomas of training possessed by them is rapidly improving. The number of teachers who do not possess degrees, 168, is slightly larger than that of the previous year, 162; but the number of assistants is larger by 20 masters and 7 mistresses, so that the percentage of assistants with degrees has improved. The increase in the number of teachers holding degrees of the University of Wales is interesting. The numbers were 37 in 1901, 79 in 1904, and 117 in 1905. There is also a large increase in the numbers holding diplomas or certificates of training: 10 more than the 31 in the previous year hold the diploma of Cambridge University. The number holding the diploma of the University of London has increased from two to six, and of those holding other certificates of secondary training the number is 69, as compared with 19.

The foregoing figures indicate that, in the Welsh schools, great importance is attached to the question of efficient training. Though the qualifications of the assistant teachers show improvement there are too frequent changes in the Teaching Staff. It is feared that in many cases well-qualified teachers leave owing to the insufficient salaries given, and take positions in places where the salaries are more commensurate with their qualifications. This is a question which demands the earnest attention of the Local Education Authorities.

There are indications that improvement is taking place in the duration of the school career of the pupils. More pupils stay in the schools beyond the age of 15, and more are presented for the Senior and Honours certificates, but there is still much room for improvement.

The Chief Inspector again draws attention to the necessity for ensuring that children who are to receive further education

in a secondary school should be transferred to that school from the elementary school as nearly as may be at the age of 12, and that the limit of age for scholarships should be 13. He also adds some valuable remarks as to the co-ordination of elementary and secondary school work—a matter of great importance, especially in Wales, where so large a percentage of the secondary school pupils are drawn from the public elementary schools.

The ever increasing numbers attending the county schools have caused much overcrowding, and an extension of the accommodation is urgently required. In many counties this work, with the cost of an increased staff with adequate salaries, will entail an increase of expenditure, which will have to be met to a large extent by increased contributions from the rates.

The provision of hostels in connection with the county schools is an experiment that has been suggested, but up to the present time has not been attempted by any Local Education Authority.

The number of boarders and of those residing in approved lodgings shows a steady increase more than proportionate to the increase of the total number of the pupils. Proper supervision of the conditions under which these children live is of great importance.

The number of pupils on the rolls of the schools under the Central Welsh Board amounts to 5·1 per 1,000 of the population.

The number per 1,000 of population in schools varies greatly throughout the Principality, rising to as much as 10·8 in Merioneth, and falling to 2·9 in Monmouth. No useful deductions can be made from these figures without more detailed information of the other forms of secondary education provided in counties than is at present available.

There is an increase in the number of pupils attending the schools of 1,129 or over 12 per cent.as compared with the previous year, and for the first time the number of girls exceeds that of the boys. But it is difficult to make any useful comparison with previous years, owing to the disturbance in normal progress caused by the admission of pupil teachers to the schools, and the transfer of probationers to the secondary schools as ordinary pupils. The number of pupil teachers in the schools in the year 1905–6 was, boys 261, girls 625; and of those preparing to be pupil teachers, boys 251 and girls 504.

Various systems of dividing the time given to education and professional training have been tried in the different counties. But the general opinion as expressed at the Conference held at Shrewsbury on the training of teachers, and confirmed by the Chief Inspector in his Report, is that any form of half-time system renders the work of organisation of the secondary

schools extremely difficult, and is not fully effective for either educational or professional training.

The financial position of the Central Welsh Board is now satisfactory, and it is proposed to reduce the amount of capitation grant contributed by the counties towards expenses of examination.

Table A.

Salaries of Teaching Staff.

	Head Masters.	Head Mistresses.
Above £500	5	1
Between £400 and £500	12	—
Between £300 and £400	21	8
Between £200 and £300	30	9
Under £200	6	3
	74	21

	Assistant Masters.	Assistant Mistresses.
Above £250	1	—
Between £200 and £250	6	1
Between £150 and £200	62	12
Between £100 and £150	165	161
Under £100	13	69
	247	243

TABLE B.

NUMBER of PUPILS on the ROLL of COUNTY SCHOOLS in the Years 1902–1903, 1903–4, and 1904–5.

County.	1902–3.			1903–4.			1904–5.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Anglesey - -	170	108	278	182	93	275	189	112	301
Brecon - -	130	115	245	137	114	251	154	158	312
Cardigan - -	274	180	454	271	189	460	265	214	479
Carmarthen - -	262	279	541	284	286	570	378	340	718
Carnarvon - -	435	378	813	433	389	822	485	471	956
Denbigh - -	375	269	644	391	291	682	391	318	709
Flint - - -	218	154	372	255	171	426	308	284	592
Glamorgan -	1,110	1,198	2,308	1,185	1,288	2,473	1,308	1,418	2,726
Merioneth - -	271	265	536	274	286	560	286	290	576
Monmouth -	162	349	511	155	395	550	171	483	654
Montgomery -	175	177	352	178	172	350	189	178	367
Pembroke - -	250	237	487	250	262	512	260	325	585
Radnor - - -	63	54	117	60	60	120	64	71	135
Cardiff - -	210	247	457	248	268	516	260	281	541
Newport - -	159	125	284	161	124	285	159	136	295
Swansea - -	211	179	390	226	206	432	249	218	467
Totals - -	4,475	4,314	8,789	4,690	4,594	9,284	5,116	5,297	10,413

W. N. BRUCE,
Principal Assistant Secretary,
Secondary Schools Branch.

26th June 1906.

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